

WORKPLACE CONNECTION

" ENRICHING LIVES "

May/June 2012

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2012 Average Vehicle Ridership Survey

County Code Chapter 5.90 requires that County departments conduct an annual Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR) survey. Beginning the week of July 23 and ending the week of August 27, 2012, County departments will conduct an AVR survey of the employee population at each worksite. Before the survey, the CEO Office of Workplace Programs will meet with department Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs) to review the survey process and procedures.

The AVR survey is an important piece of the County's Employee Commute Reduction Program, known as Rideshare. The survey is required by the County's

trip Reduction Ordinance and the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Rule 2202 for worksites with more than 100 employees. Worksites with less than 100 County employees are not mandated to participate in the survey. County worksites with more than 250 employees will use the survey results to complete their annual Rule 2202 Employee Commute Reduction Plan, which is due to the SCAQMD by November 30, 2012.

THIS SURVEY IS MANDATORY – With the exception of employees designated as temporary, seasonal, volunteer, or field workers, all County employees must be surveyed if they report to the worksite between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Please



complete the survey and turn it in as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact **Ruth Wong, Director, Office of Workplace Programs** at rwong@ceo.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-2619.

Grand Park To Open This Summer

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina officially announced that the newly named, \$54 million Grand Park will open to the public later this summer— and that the Music Center, tapped by the Board of Supervisors to manage Grand Park, will be responsible for all operations and programming for an initial period of three years.

"Grand Park will make our Civic Center bloom," Molina said. "In a sea of concrete, Grand Park will be a welcome urban oasis. At twelve acres, it is one of the biggest parks in all of Los Angeles – and right in the heart of downtown."

For Grand Park's first year, the Music Center will handle all maintenance, operations, public programming, and private party leases under the guidance of



the Grand Park Advisory Board – which will include one appointee from each county supervisor's office; one appointee from each relevant Los Angeles City Council district; and one appointee from the county's Chief Executive Office. By July of 2013, the Grand Park Advisory Board is expected to evolve to 501(c)3 status and operate the park on behalf of the county. "We are honored to have been selected by the Board of Supervisors to manage Grand Park," said Howard Sherman, chief operating officer for the Music Center.

"We embrace the role with great enthusiasm for what we know will be one of Los Angeles' most dynamic outdoor destinations. As the Music Center's 'front yard,' Grand Park gives us the opportunity to have a new space in which to offer entertainment in a completely new way. The Music Center will ensure that Grand Park is an inclusive environment with a breadth of events and activities that are perfect for an outdoor setting and offer something for everyone to enjoy."



Metro to Pick Up Cost Of Bus, Train Rides for Thousands in Foster Program

Thousands of youths aging out of the foster care system can get free rides on buses and trains operated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and dozens of other carriers under a first-in-the-nation pilot program.

Called "Youth on the Move," the yearlong pilot aims to provide as many as 2,000 current and former foster or probation youths ages 18-21 with a special Transit Access Pass, also known as a TAP card, that can allow them to travel almost anywhere in Los Angeles County as they become self-sufficient.

County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the new chairman of Metro's board of directors, came up with the idea. *"We have about 1,800 people being emancipated each year but how do these young people get a job, go to work and go to school, (when) a vehicle costs about \$11,000 a year to operate?"* he said.

Previously, the County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) spent about \$200,000 a year to purchase

transit passes from Metro, and then distributed them to only foster youths who were employed or going to college.

During the pilot, Metro absorbed the cost of the transit passes, allowing the DCFS to save money. Metro's bill will depend on how many foster youths take advantage of the program.

"What the Metro board decided to do was commit to helping as many kids as possible, and it felt that this was a good investment," said Metro spokeswoman Kim Upton.

"If we can help them get on the right path, that's good for everybody because it's morally correct and the right thing to do economically," she added.

Norma Lathan is among 20 foster youths given a chance to test the program for a month before it officially launched.

"I just got hired and I needed some type of transportation so when they told me about these passes, it was a blessing," she said.



Did You Know?

Tommy Diaz, a foster youth who used to ride a bike to school, expressed gratitude.

"Life has been up and down but because of this, I'm more motivated to attend college and go to work." he said.

Those interested in obtaining the cards can call DCFS at 213.351.0100

Orange Line, Golden Age



Sometimes it's hard to spot a great leap forward when you're sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

But that's what we're living through these days in L.A. County.

Our public transportation system, a national laughingstock just a generation ago, is on a roll. I don't think it's an overstatement to say we've entered a

golden age of public mass transit. I'm not arguing that our notorious traffic congestion is likely to disappear anytime soon; as long as our population keeps growing and 16-year-olds continue to head down to the DMV to get their first driver's licenses, that's going to be a fact of life. But we're finally in a position to offer the traveling public some meaningful alternatives to sitting and stewing on our freeways and surface streets.

The Orange Line Extension is the latest case in point. This rapid transit bus line opened to the public on Saturday, June 30, with free rides and festivities. Its four-mile route, which runs from Warner Center to the Metrolink train station in Chatsworth, is a northward extension of the original Orange Line, which opened in 2005 to rave reviews.

L.A. County Telework Program

The County of Los Angeles is home to one of the largest telework programs in the nation. Within its workforce of over 100,000 people, a growing number of County employees are working smarter, using the “electronic highway” instead of heavily congested freeways.

Telework is defined as an alternate method of work where the employee, also known as the Teleworker, works from home or a location closer to their home like a branch office. Sponsored by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the County's Telework Program (CTP) was established in September 1989 with 78 participants. Today's Telework Program has over 2,600 employees that telework an average of 1.4 days per week. The County's teleworkers range from department heads to entry level staff. The Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services have 70 percent of all teleworkers in the County.

The authority for the CTP comes from Board of Supervisors Telework Policy Number 9.090. Telework helps the County achieve regional clean air and traffic reduction goals and is an integral part of the County's overall compliance with regulations (Rule 2202) set forth by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to reduce air pollution from employee commutes to and from work.

Rule 2202 is a legal mandate and all

worksites in the County with 250 or more employees are required to comply with all provisions of the regulation. The Rule provides employers with a menu of options designed to meet ambient air quality standards mandated by the Federal Clean Air Act. Telework is one of the many options available to the County to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act and SCAQMD Rule 2202. Rule 2202 guidelines are provided by SCAQMD, which also provides training and consulting services.

The CTP is a management option, not a universal employee benefit. Department heads may implement telework when it is deemed mutually beneficial by the department and the employee, and as a means of increasing its Average Vehicle Ridership for sites regulated by SCAQMD under Rule 2202. SCAQMD requires regulated sites to keep records on the Telework Program for three years for audit purposes if the worksite has listed telework as a direct strategy in the Employee Commute Reduction Program, also known as Rideshare.

The terms and conditions of employment for the Teleworker and supervisor (Telemanager) remain unchanged. Work hours, overtime, compensation and vacation schedules must conform to the County Code, to Memorandum of Understanding provisions and to terms otherwise agreed upon in the Telework Agreement by the employee and supervisor.

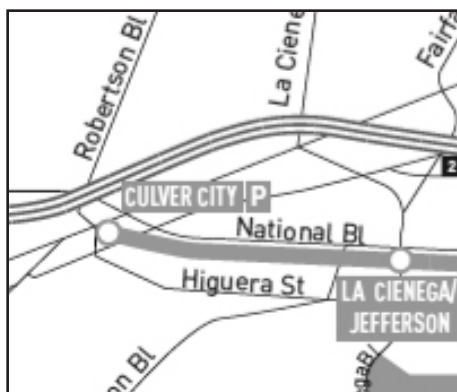
On February 22, 2012, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) sent a memo to all department heads updating the telework program procedures to ensure countywide uniformity of program implementation. On June 12, 2012, the Board of Supervisors adopted changes to the County's Telework Policy that strengthen management and monitoring of the CTP. The updated Telework Policy requires: 1) approval by department management; 2) telework training for both Teleworkers and Telemanagers; and 3) departments participating in the CTP to submit a quarterly report to the CEO and comply with all Telework policies, standards, and procedures in order to remain eligible for program participation.

An Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) in each County regulated site is responsible for promoting Telework. There are many benefits to telework. In addition to improving the environment by reducing the number of vehicle trips to the worksite, the CTP maximizes County resources, reduces absenteeism, increases productivity, and improves employee morale.

If you or your department is interested in participating in the CTP, please contact your ETC or the Chief Executive Office, Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2619.

Culver City and Farmdale Stations Now Open to the Public

The Culver City and Farmdale stations along Metro's recently opened Expo Line opened to the public on Wednesday, June 20. To mark the occasion, patrons boarding trains at the two newly opened stops received free passes to use the Expo line for the entire day. Line 1 travels from Washington/Landmark near the front of the Culver City Station, westward to downtown Culver City, onward to Venice Beach, and returns eastward to the West LA Transit Center along Washington Blvd. Line 1 buses operate seven days a week and connects with the station approximately every 15 minutes during peak hours with an operating day lasting from 5:40 a.m.



— 11:30 p.m. Line 7 will travel from the Robertson Transit Hub, adjacent to the Culver City Station, to downtown Culver

City and Marina Del Rey; it operates Monday-Friday with trial 30-minute headways during the extended hours of 6:00a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Both Phase I and II of the Metro Expo Line are being built by the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority. Once completed, they are turned over to Metro to operate.

According to Metro, by 2020, approximately 27,000 passengers will ride Phase 1 each week day. Phase 1 will connect to Phase 2 of the Expo Line in 2016. Phase 2 will run from Culver City to Santa Monica. Once completed, the 15.2

See Station Continued on page 4



Workplace Coordinator Spotlight

This month's Coordinator Spotlight is on

Graziella Orsini-Mora. Graziella works at the Glendora Branch for the Department of Children and Family Services. She's been working there for four years and has worked for the County for six. She is the Lead Worker in the Health and Education Input section of that office. Graziella loves to travel and spend time with her family.

Graziella is an Employee Transportation Coordinator for the County's Rideshare Program. "I feel that Rideshare is a very beneficial program to staff here. I also feel that the program is very beneficial to our environment and the planet," Graziella says.

Station continued from page 3

mile Expo Line will give commuters the option of traveling from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica by rail, creating an alternative to driving through the congested Santa Monica Freeway (I-10). Metro staff estimates that by 2030, approximately 64,000 passengers will ride the Expo Transit Line each week day, making it one of the most heavily used light rail lines in the country. Aside from connecting communities on the Westside to downtown Los Angeles, the Expo Line is expected to shorten commutes, lower greenhouse gas emissions from cars, provide fast and reliable public transportation services and increase the number of commuters who use the public transportation in Los Angeles County.

For more information about the new Metro Expo Line, visit www.metro.net/expo or www.builddexpo.org.

Lindsay Voda, Palmdale Sheriff's Station, is a Winner of the New Toyota Prius!



The winner of the 2012 March of Dimes Campaign, Toyota Prius Opportunity Drawing, is Lindsay Voda from the Palmdale Sheriff's Department in the Antelope Valley. The County of Los Angeles raised \$31,580.00 with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting the March of Dimes. Tickets for the drawing were sold at \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$25.

The winner was announced at the L.A. Sparks basketball game at the Staples Center on June 20, 2012. Only one winner is chosen for all of the State of California. For more information on the drawing or for the March of Dimes Campaign in Los Angeles County, please call the *Office of Workplace Programs* at 213-974-2619.

Calendar of Events

MARCH OF DIMES (MOD)

EVENT DATES:

June 30

MOD Campaign closes

COUNTY CHARITABLE GIVING

CAMPAIGN (CGC):

July

Fund Distribution

Agency Meeting

August 15

CGC Coordinators Training

September 11

CGC Campaign Kickoff

September

LA County Fair

Anytime

Raging Waters

Paintball

ECRP Plan Workshops

September/October 2012

ETC Training Sessions

Thur., July 12, and 26, 2012

Thur., August 9, and 23, 2012

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

July

Risk Management Volunteer

Insurance Meeting

December

Coordinator's Winter Planning

Meeting



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